



The Rock Wren

The mission of Red Rock Audubon Society is to protect, restore, and improve natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and to educate the public about our unique Nevada environment.

Red Rock Audubon Society
P.O. Box 96691
Las Vegas, NV 89193
702.390.9890

Volume 34, Issue 2
Summer 2010

Special dates of interest:

Next General Meeting:

09/13/10 6:30 pm

Field Trips:

June 2010: Hualapai Mtn.Park

Sept 2010: Sunset Park

Jan 2011 - San Diego

Feb 2011 - Salton Sea

Mar 2011 - S.E. Arizona

Be Green!



Inside this issue:

[Board Members](#) 2

[2011 Bird Festival](#) 2

[Gulf Oil Spill Disaster](#) 3

[Field Trip Reports](#) 4

[Field Trip Schedule](#) 5

[Marilyn Mackett](#) 5

[Potluck & Greenfest](#) 6

[Rita and the Kids](#) 7

[Join RRAS](#) 8

RRAS General Meetings

The Red Rock Audubon Society General Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month, except June, July, August, and December. Social hour begins at 6:30pm, presentations begin at 7pm. It's free and open to the public. Join us for snacks, conversation, education, and great raffle prizes. Meetings are held at Nevada Power Building, in the Wengert Room, at 6226 W. Sahara Ave.

We're preparing the Fall Field Trip Schedule

If you love field trips, would like to help on a field trip, or have a special place that you like to bird and would want to share it with other members - then give Je Anne Branca a call at (702) 451-6843. Je Anne is preparing the fall birding field trip schedule now and would appreciate hearing from you!

Some of the many places we can bird are:

- Clark County Wetlands Park,
- Red Springs & Red Rock Canyon
- Sunset Park
- Spring Mountain Ranch State Park
- Ash Meadows

There are many birding locations nearby, give Je Anne a call today to let her know where you're interested in going. Check our website for a list of regional birding spots, their descriptions, maps, and bird checklists.

You also can volunteer to share your love and interest of birding with others by leading a field trip. If you're not ready to lead a trip, then volunteer to be a co-leader to help out with handling the scope, looking up birds in the guide book, and making sure the group doesn't get lost.

Field trip leaders and co-leaders do not have to be an expert in bird ID - they just need to have enthusiasm for learning and birding with others.

Please call Je Anne Branca at (702) 451-6843 for more information or to volunteer.



Board Members

Officers

President: Bob Wilkin
rjwilkin@cox.net

Vice President: Je Anne Branca
gann2@cox.net

Treasurer: Christine Mault
treasurer@redrockaudubon.org

Recording Secretary: Christiana Manville
secretary@redrockaudubon.org

Directors-at-Large
John Bialecki, Rita Schlageter, Carolyn Titus

Past President: Pam Nickels
imabirdwatcher@cox.net

Committee Chairs

Communications: Maureen Kammerer
info@redrockaudubon.org

Conservation: John Hiatt
hjhiatt@anv.net

Hospitality: Marilyn Mackett
mjmackett@cox.net

Membership: Carol Sweet
cfsweet@cox.net

Programs: Cris Tomlinson
programs@redrockaudubon.org

Sanctuary: John Bialecki
johnnybosox@aol.com

2011 Birding Festival

Would you like to see Red Rock Audubon Society hold a Fall 2011 birding festival here in the Las Vegas area?

In September, 2007, RRAS hosted the Western Field Ornithologists Conference in Las Vegas. During the four days of the conference, 191 species were recorded, and a one day record of 89 was set at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve. As for the participants, 70% of them had never considered Southern Nevada as a birding destination and 60% had never even birded in Nevada before. Folks loved the field trips and the feedback was all positive. Catherine Waters, Vice President of the WFO, stated they "have never, ever, ever had more positive questionnaire feedback than we had for this meeting. Ever."

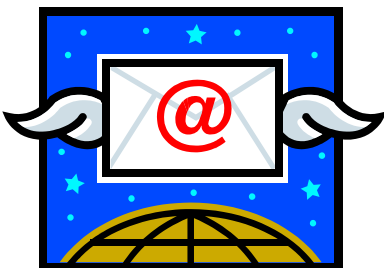
We know we can do it successfully, but we need to know if enough members and partners are interested in helping to plan and arrange the festival. If you would like to volunteer for this project we could use your help and would appreciate your ideas!

Listed below are examples of committees that we would need volunteer chair persons for:

Banquet (food and speaker); Field Trips, Grant writer; Hotel/Casino contacts; Wine & Cheese (food & speaker); and Workshop Scheduler.

For additional information or to volunteer, please call Je Anne Branca at (702) 451-6843.

Do we have your email address?



Stay informed and don't miss out on any activities!

- ♦ RRAS sends out reminders for meetings, activities, volunteer opportunities, and special events. Let us know your email address and we'll include you on our email news bulletins and the distribution of the email version of this newsletter. Simply stop by www.redrockaudubon.org and click on the "sign-up" link, or send us an email at info@redrockaudubon.org or leave us a voice mail at 702-390-9890. And, of course, keep sending in your contributions of articles and photographs!
- ♦ If you're receiving this newsletter or our emails and would rather not, let us know and we'll remove your name from the distribution list.

2010 Gulf Coast Oil Disaster - Some ideas on how you can help

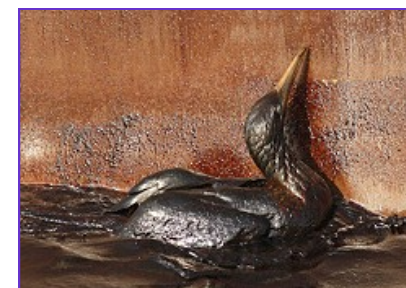
Donate to certified organizations committed to protecting the environment, restoring habitat, and helping to clean the mess

[National Audubon Society](#)

Millions of birds are nesting and breeding in the path of what may well become America's worst environmental catastrophe. The deadly and growing slick has already reached sensitive coastal areas of Louisiana. Globally significant Important Bird Areas - essential to survival of already-imperiled species - are at risk from Louisiana to Florida's Gulf Coast. The danger is real for all kinds of birds. The effects of this tragedy will be serious and long-lasting, but Audubon will be there to make a difference now and for the long haul.

Audubon is:

- * Marshalling volunteer resources to help with wildlife rescue, clean-up, and to support heroic emergency responders
- * Monitoring response efforts and guiding them toward designated Important Bird areas and sites in need of special protection
- * Researching bird and habitat impacts to inform recovery efforts
- * Leading restoration of Louisiana coastal resources for the long-term
- * Alerting the public to risks to birds and fragile resources
- * Working for safer energy solutions
- * Working to support sound public policy



[American Birding Association](#)

95% of the funds donated to the Gulf Coast fund will go directly to Gulf area recovery efforts, including Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research to help with efforts to obtain the quantities of equipment needed to carry out wildlife rehabilitation efforts. The remaining 5% of the funds will go to operational costs, including travel by ABA staff and volunteers who will soon be en route to the Gulf Coast to help Tri-State and other local conservation organizations.



Cut your hair, shave the cat, and shear the dog

Human and pet hair readily absorbs oil and is used in mats and booms created by [Matter of Trust](#), a nonprofit working to help clean up the BP oil spill at the Gulf Coast. You can cut your hair (or your pet's hair) to donate locks to the group. You can also donate old nylon stockings to help make the mats to clean up the oil spill. Go to www.MatterofTrust.org for more information. See videos of how it works here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q0cL4GsSqw> and here http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwQOD_Ir2vQ

Let your voice be heard and tell everyone what you think

Every letter, phone call, or email to elected officials, environmental organizations, and media outlets will make a huge difference. Let them know what is important to you, your family, and your Earth. Speak your mind, offer suggestions, and remind them that your dollars and votes matter.

National Audubon Society, American Birding Association, Defenders of Wildlife, and National Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and many other organizations all offer "take action" sections on their websites to make voicing your opinion an easy and quick process. Take a look at what's out there, and use the ones that fit your needs.

Field Trip Reports

Corn Creek Field Station: May 1, 2010

Tracy Kipke and Carolyn Titus led a field trip of 19 people at the Corn Creek Field Station, DNWR. A few first-timers were present and the group had 39 species!

Thanks to everyone for coming out and joining us!
Tracy Kipke

Great Blue Heron 1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1
Mallard 1	Towson's Solitaire 1
Cooper's Hawk 1	Northern Mockingbird 1
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	Crissal Thrasher 2
Gambel's Quail (heard)	European Starling 4
Mourning Dove 3	Phainopepla 3
Black-chinned Hummingbird 2	Lucy's Warbler 6
Anna's Hummingbird 1	Yellow Warbler 3
Gray Flycatcher 3	Yellow-rumped Warbler, Audubon's 5
Dusky Flycatcher 3	Wilson's Warbler 2
Empidonax sp. 1	Western Tanager 1
Black Phoebe 1	Chipping Sparrow 1
Western Kingbird 3	Brewer's Sparrow 1
Plumbeous Vireo 1	White-crowned Sparrow 1
Common Raven 2	Lazuli Bunting 1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3	Red-winged blackbird 1
Barn Swallow 1	Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Verdin 1	Bullock's Oriole 4
Marsh Wren (heard)	Lesser Goldfinch (heard)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3	

Springs Preserve: May 1st, 2010

The bird watching walk to the Spring Preserve went well Saturday, May 1st. We had 8 participants and saw 16 species. The participants had never been to an Audubon event before, but several had been to the Wings and Wildlife Festival.

Thanks to everyone who joined us!
Christiana Manville

Mallard	Phainopepla
Turkey Vulture	Great-tailed grackle
Kestral	Verdin
N. Harrier	Mockingbird
Mourning Dove	Common Yellow-throat
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Lesser Goldfinch
Say's Phoebe	House Finch
Western Kingbird	Lark Sparrow



Image courtesy of Billy Chapman from the Corn Creek field trip.

Floyd Lamb City Park - Tule Springs

April 15, 2010

A great way to celebrate tax day. 10 people gathered at 8 a.m. for a morning in the park. We started with lots of activity in the tall old trees of the first lawn area. A female Bullock's Oriole was building a nest while the male stood guard, looking impressive. An exciting surprise was a 1st year male Summer Tanager changing into adult plumage.

All of the winter ducks are gone from the park. However a pair of Great Blue Herons have built a nest atop the cat tails in the 1st pond and were tending it. No evidence of young there yet. The Black-crowned Night-Herons were very active. One was tearing small branches from an old elm tree. Of course the Peacocks in the park were displaying and more than gorgeous.

Most of the winter migrants were gone and only a few of the summer migrants were here. All in all, we had a good morning and ended with a species count of 42. Thanks to all who came and went birding with me. Rita Schlageter, Trip leader

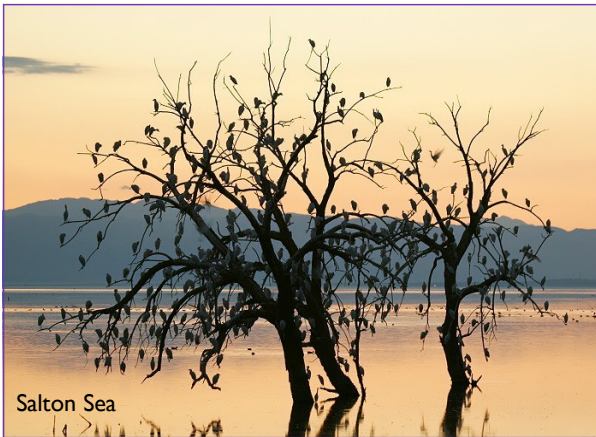
Field Trip Schedule

Wednesday, June 2nd - Hualapai Mountain Park, Kingman, AZ

Join us as we explore the park for Acorn Woodpeckers, Zone-tailed Hawk, and other good birds. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Call Je Anne at (702) 451-6843 for reservations and meeting place. 6:00 am - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, September 8th - Sunset Park, Las Vegas, NV

We will have a MEMORIAL FIELD TRIP IN HONOR OF HUGH HAWKINS, led by his birding buds: Huston Shoopman, Je Anne Branca, and Rita Schlageter. Call Je Anne at (702) 451-6843 for reservations, time, and meeting place.



Looking ahead to 2011 Out of State Field Trips:

Each trip has a target of 100 species. We've done it before, we can do it again! More information coming soon...

- January - San Diego California: 3 - 4 days
- February - Salton Sea, California 3 - 4 days
- March - Southeast Arizona: 3 - 5 days

From the Desk of Marilyn Mackett

Bird Ladies Meet Brownies

Red Rock Audubon Society was invited to support a Brownie Overnight Camping Event at Floyd Lamb & Tule Springs City Park on March 19-20. The Brownies were studying rocks, stars, birds, the constellations and planted roses in the park during their stay. Called The Bird Ladies by the Brownies, Rita Schageter and Marilyn Mackett led field trips throughout Saturday for 75 Brownies, grades 1 – 3 and their GSA leaders.

Rita and Marilyn provided walks along the ponds at the State Park and ended the sessions with a handout of a bird scramble word game created by Maureen Kammerer. Among the birds sighted throughout the sunny day were: Canada Goose, Great Tailed grackle, Black crowned Night Heron, Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird, Mallard, American Coot, Double Crested Cormorants, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk (on her nest), Brewer's Black bird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Verdin, Mockingbird, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Ruddy Duck, Snow Goose, Rough Winged Swallow, Rock Dove, and Collared Dove.

Thank You to Our Supporters

RRAS held their Silent Auction at the March 8th, 2010, general meeting. We were successful in providing many wonderful artistic items for our members. All monies, almost \$300, will go to the general operating fund.

A BIG THANK YOU go to all of the donors who supported our Silent Auction, and of course, all the wonderful buyers who supported RRAS with their silent bids. Thank you to the following people who provided items for the auction:

Alison Cockrum	Jim Boone
Betty Seebeck	Jim Switalla
Bruce Lund	John Bialecki
Carol Sweet	Liz La Rue
Carolyn Titus	William Hildebrandt
Hermi Hiatt	

RRAS Events Photos



50 mph winds didn't stop Red Rock Audubon Society of having it's annual Potluck Dinner at Calico Springs. 25 people showed up and had a good time eating, talking, and being with friends

Several RRAS volunteers manned the tables at GreenFest on Saturday, April 24th, at The District at Green Valley. Lots of families and kids stopped by. Some of the kids a great time coloring and looking at the bird pictures and nests.

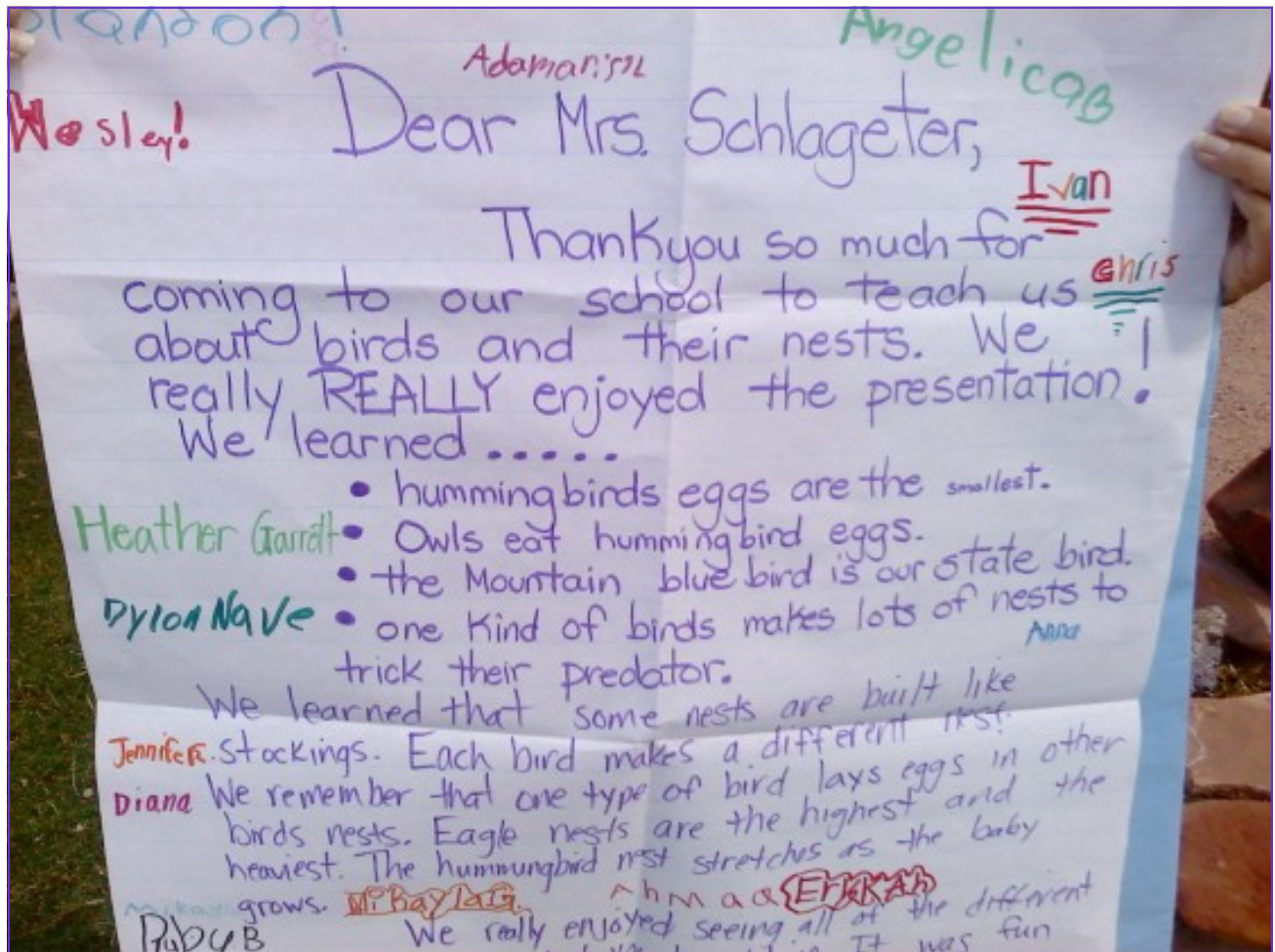
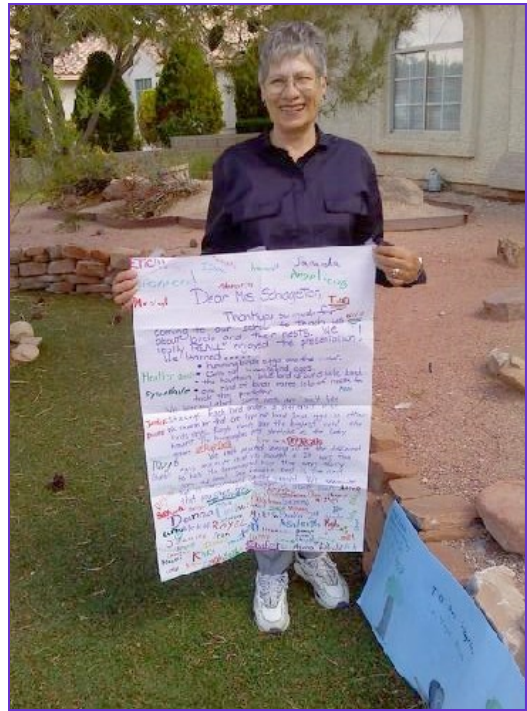


In April, **Rita Schlageter** met with 95 students and 7 teachers at the Bunker Elementary School to talk about Nests & Eggs.

The kids were enthusiastic, well-behaved, and very interested in what Rita had to teach.

To show their appreciation, the students sent Rita this beautiful, hand-made, and adorable thank you note! As you can see, Rita was thrilled to learn that the kids really, REALLY enjoyed the presentation!

A huge RRAS thank you goes out to Rita for her dedication to teaching the kids in the Las Vegas area about our birds.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / DONATION FORM

We invite your membership in the National Audubon Society and the Red Rock Audubon Society. To join, please complete and mail this form with payment to Red Rock Audubon Society, Attn. Membership Dept., P.O. Box 96691, Las Vegas NV 89193. Please make checks payable to Red Rock Audubon Society.

National Audubon Society Membership:

___ \$20 Introductory Membership for Individual or Family (1yr). Members receive Audubon Magazine, the Rock Wren newsletter, and membership in RRAS.

Donations to Red Rock Audubon Society: (Please select one)

___ Ruby-Crowned Kinglet \$10 ___ Crissal Thrasher \$50 ___ Golden Eagle \$500 or more
___ Mountain Bluebird \$20 ___ American Avocet \$100

Gifts to the RRAS Permanent Endowment Fund: helps insure the future viability of RRAS.

___ Any gift is greatly appreciated. Make check payable to RRAS Endowment Fund \$ _____

Subscription to printed Rock Wren newsletter Only: ___ Rock Wren \$10.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY RENEWALS should be sent directly to Boulder, Colorado in the envelope provided with your renewal notice.



Permit #464
Las Vegas NV
U.S. Postage Pd
Nonprofit Org.

Red Rock Audubon Society
P.O. Box 96691
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193